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JAPANESE PERSONALITIES IN THE NEWS

General DOIHARA Kenji

Appointed Commander of the Overall Army Command to succeed Field Marshal SUGIYAMA Gen who committed suicide 9/12/45. (Tokyo in Japanese 9/18/45)

Born: Aug. 1883, Okayama-ken; 2nd s. of DOIHARA Yoshinaga; m. Kayo, d. of OKADA Kingo

Career: Grad. of Military Academy 1904  
1904 Sub.-Lt.  
1912 Grad. of Military Staff College  
On staff of General Staff Office  
Commander of 30th or 33rd Infantry Divisions (Sources disagree on this item)

June 1928 Engineered assassination of Marshal CHANG Tso Lin, Manchurian War Lord. (Tokyo Record, Tolischus)  
1931 Rank of Colonel; Resident Officer at Mukden

Sept. 15, 1931 In Tokyo to attend conference with War Minister General MINAMI Jiro (now retired), Vice-Minister of War SUGIYAMA (the late Field Marshal SUGIYAMA Gen) and the Chief of Staff and Vice-Chief of Staff; DOIHARA reported as saying that "There was no telling what might happen in Manchuria" (Asahi 9/9/31) (War and Diplomacy, Takeuchi)

Note: DOIHARA was a member of the "Saga group" led by Generals MUTO, ARAKI and MAZAKI, which was to gain the upper hand by Dec. 13, 1931 when ARAKI became Minister of War in INUKAI Cabinet. The "Saga group" which later was known as the KODO HA (Imperial Way Faction) had as "the youngest representatives of the movement, who enjoy great authority among the young officers, Colonel ISIHARA (See Series 5 - PERS TID Report No. 165, July 17, 1945 - Lt. General (retired) ISHIWARA (or ISHIHARA) Kanji (or Kwanji), Colonel DOIHARA, Colonel ITAGAKI (See GID Report No. 666 - PERS 200, Sept. 18, 1945), Colonel OKAMURA (See TID Series 5 - PERS, Report No. 113, April 19, 1945 - General OKAMURA Yasutsugu (or Yasuji)"

Feb. 1932 Known as a Colonel in Japanese Intelligence Service in Manchuria  
Commander of the 9th Infantry Brigade  
1935 Rank of Major-General; Chief of Military Special Service Facilities in Mukden and Dairen (Japanese Intelligence Service)

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Date: 2001, 2005

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Spring 1935 "Influenced by General DOIHARA's reports, the Japanese thought they would meet with no difficulty in starting an autonomy movement similar to that in Manchuria and detach from the government at Nanking the provinces of Chahar, Suiyan, Hopei, Shansi and Shantung. Hence the HO- UMETSU (or UMEZU) Agreement finally signed July 6, 1935" At one stroke General YU Hsueh-Chung, governor of Hopei Province, his Fifty-first Army, and all central government divisions had been driven from North China, and all Kuomintang and auxiliary political organs in the province suppressed.

June 23, 1935 CHIN- DOIHARA Agreement

Note: As a result of the "Changpei Incident" which involved an overnight detention for questioning of a group of Japanese officers, some of whom were members of the Special Service Mission resident at Dolonor, the party set out on a trip through Chahar Province in direction of Kalgan without passports and were stopped for questioning by local Chinese officials at Changpei June 5, 1935. Kwantung Army presented demands backed up with troop movements on Chahar border. Nanking government, June 23, 1935, empowered General CHIN Te-chun to arrange settlement with Major-General DOIHARA. Terms called for an apology, dismissal of responsible Chinese officers, pledge that such incidents would not recur, and a guarantee of free and safe travel for all Japanese in Chahar; in addition terms called for dissolution of Kuomintang organs in Chahar, cessation of Chinese immigration into the province, removal of 132nd Division from Changpei and demilitarization of a broad area of eastern Chahar, "all territory east of a line drawn from Changping in Hopei to the Wall in east Chahar via Yenching and Talinpaio, and south of another line drawn from a point north of Tushihkan to a point south of Changpei." Forces of the 29th Route Army were to be withdrawn from the area, within which order was to be maintained by a police force. (Japan in China, T. A. Bisson)

Nov. 6, 1935 Major-General DOIHARA, Chief of the Kwantung Army's Special Service Section, arrived in Tientsin. In his conferences dealt mainly with the leaders of the 29th Army and had several meetings with General SUNG Che-yuen...Everything seemed prepared for the coup de main that was to deliver the five northern provinces into the hands of Japan...added pressure...Nov. 15, the Kwantung Army dispatched four divisions from Chinchow, Manchuria, to Shanhakuan, and that night the headquarters of North China garrison demanded accommodations for 15,000 troops from the Tientsin authorities. Nov. 18, DOIHARA delivered a verbal ultimatum to chief negotiator on the Chinese side. DOIHARA's ultimatum: if a North China Autonomous Council was not announced on or before Nov. 20, DOIHARA stated that five divisions would be moved into Hopei and four into Shantung. DOIHARA expected a favorable answer. The evening of Nov. 19, 1935 CHIANG Kai-Shek wired North China officials to drop negotiations with DOIHARA, since the whole problem of Sino-Japanese relations was being taken up in Nanking. Nov. 20, DOIHARA quietly left Peiping for Tientsin. China had agreed to have conversations concerning the "Three Principles" of which HIROTA Koki, Foreign Minister had proposed in his final interview with the Chinese Ambassador in Tokyo Oct. 28.

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- (1) Positive aid by Nanking government to a scheme designed to place Sino-Japanese relations on a firm friendly basis.
- (2) A formula for cooperation between China, Japan and Manchukuo in development of North China
- (3) A program for a common front between China, Japan and Manchukuo to prevent the spread of Communism.

Nov. 20, Colonel TAKAHASHI, military attache informed a United Press correspondent that "DOIHARA was in North China in a private capacity only, and not on any official mission". Nov. 21 TAKAHASHI declared "Major-General DOIHARA has no authority to negotiate with Chinese officials."

His larger scheme brought to halt, DOIHARA was as yet by no means defeated.

Nov. 24, 1935 YIN Ju-keng, who had been raised to post of control of East Hopei demilitarized zone (since May 31, 1933) by the Japanese, issued a proclamation of autonomy for the East Hopei Area. In the demilitarized zone, at least, DOIHARA was able to move toward the realization of his plans.

Nov. 27, 1935 DOIHARA visited General HAN Fu-chu of Shantung and General FU Tso-yi, chairman of Suiyuan. Japanese forces effected a temporary occupation of the Fengtai railway junction Nov. 27, ostensibly to prevent removal of rolling stock to the south. Extensive Japanese troop movements in the Peiping-Tientsin area and the threat that a full division would be sent in from Manchuria, contributed to the general uneasiness.

Nov. 30, General SUNG telegraphed Nanking that he could no longer control the growing "demand of the people" for autonomy.

Dec. 25, 1935, the "East Hopei Autonomous Council" gave way to the "East Hopei Anti-Communist Autonomous Government". Some months later the East Hopei area became the source of entrance for a vast illicit trade in Japanese goods that seriously affected the revenues of the Central Government of China. (Japan in China, T.A. Bisson)

1936 Promoted to Lt.-General; attached to "Remaining 1st Division"

1937 - Nov. 1939 Commander of 14th Division in North China

1938 "After fall of Hankow in Oct. 1938, the Japanese decided to make FU Pei-fu the chief executive of China's occupied territory. FU became angry and spurned all Japanese emissaries. Japanese then sent their arch conspirator DOIHARA who finally forced his way into FU's presence. 'When as you Japanese have repeatedly done, you have violated our territorial and administrative integrity, it is obviously useless for me to talk to you about moral law. But you have no qualifications even to warrant my speaking to you about the way of force. I am compelled to speak to you about the ways of robbers and highwaymen. But even they are guided by principles which I do not discover in you. What is the good of my talking to you at all?' Having thus delivered himself, the old general waved his sleeves and went into his inner chambers." (Biography of CHIANG Kai-Shek, CHANG, 1944)

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Nov. 1939 Apptd. member of Supreme War Council

Oct. 1940-June 9, 1941 Director of Military Academy and concurrently Supreme War Councillor

April 1941 Promoted to full General

June 9, 1941-May 1943 Inspector-General of Army Aviation; post ranks after "Big Three" of Army; succeeded General YAMASHITA Hobun (or Tomoyuki); succeeded by Lt. General YASUDA Takeo

July 1941 DOIHARA warned that in case of war some hostile planes were bound to break through the defense line and that Japan must prepare for this. (Tokyo Record, Tolischus)

May 1943-Mar. 25, 1944 Commander-in-Chief of Eastern Army Command; concurrently Supreme War Councillor; succeeded by General FUJIE Keisuke

Mar. 25, 1944-April 7, 1945 Assigned to undisclosed post

April 7, 1945-Sept. 12, 1945 Inspector-General of Military Education (one of the "Big Three" of the Army); succeeded Field Marshal HATA Shunroku

May 7, 1945 Apptd. to serve concurrently as member of Supreme War Council

Sept. 12, 1945 Apptd. Commander of Overall Army Command

Note: April 7, 1945, The home Ground Defense Commands were established with Field Marshals SUGIYAMA Gen and HATA Shunroku as commanders. No mention has been made recently as to Field Marshal HATA's position.

DOIHARA, referred to as a Japanese talent scout and as the "Lawrence of Manchuria" by writers from the western world, is according to the Japan Advertiser 12/31/40 "a well known authority on things Chinese". Persistently the young colonel, loyal to ARAKI, has risen through the military hierarchy.

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